

No. 53137*

**Lithuania
and
Holy See**

Agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the Holy See on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education (with annex). Vilnius, 8 June 2012

Entry into force: *23 October 2012 by notification, in accordance with article 8*

Authentic texts: *English and Lithuanian*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Lithuania, 23 December 2015*

**No UNTS volume number has yet been determined for this record. The Text(s) reproduced below, if attached, are the authentic texts of the agreement /action attachment as submitted for registration and publication to the Secretariat. For ease of reference they were sequentially paginated. Translations, if attached, are not final and are provided for information only.*

**Lituanie
et
Saint-Siège**

Accord entre la République de Lituanie et le Saint-Siège sur la reconnaissance des qualifications relatives à l'enseignement supérieur (avec annexe). Vilnius, 8 juin 2012

Entrée en vigueur : *23 octobre 2012 par notification, conformément à l'article 8*

Textes authentiques : *anglais et lituanien*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies : *Lituanie, 23 décembre 2015*

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
AND
THE HOLY SEE
ON THE RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS
CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION**

THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

and

THE HOLY SEE (hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”),

having regard for the ongoing implementation of the Agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the Holy See on co-operation in education and culture (signed on 5 May 2000),

having regard to the Council of Europe and UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, signed on 11 April 1997 in Lisbon (hereinafter referred to as the “Lisbon Recognition Convention”), which was ratified by both Parties,

confirming their obligation, in accordance with the Bologna Process, to participate fully in the construction of the European area of higher education, to improve the transparency of higher education qualifications conferred by authorized institutions and to facilitate the mobility of students and teachers of higher education institutions of the Parties,

have agreed as follows:

**Article 1
Purpose of the Agreement**

The purpose of the present Agreement shall be:

1. Improvement of the transparency for the competent authority of the other Party of secondary education and higher education qualifications obtained in the institutions belonging to Lithuania's higher education system (hereinafter referred to as the "Lithuanian higher education institutions") and those earned in the Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties which have been canonically erected or approved by the Holy See and which have the right to confer academic degrees by the authority of the Holy See (hereinafter referred to as the "Holy See's higher education institutions").

2. Recognition of qualifications giving access to higher education, as well as study titles necessary to permit enrolment in a Faculty after periods of study completed and qualifications conferred in the higher education institutions belonging to the educational systems of the Parties, with the aim of beginning or continuing studies of the same or a higher cycle in the higher education institutions of the other Party referred to in Article 2.2 of the present Agreement.

Article 2

Scope of application

1. The present Agreement shall be applied to:

Documents certifying secondary education acquired in the institutions belonging to the education system of the Republic of Lithuania, periods of study completed in Lithuanian higher education institutions and higher education qualifications conferred by these institutions.

Documents certifying periods of study completed in the Holy See's higher education institutions and higher education qualifications conferred by these institutions.

2. The Parties shall draw up lists of higher education institutions recognized by legal acts of each Party. The list of Lithuanian higher education institutions shall be drawn up by and published on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science. The list of the Holy See's higher education institutions shall be drawn up by and published on the website of

the Congregation for Catholic Education. The Parties shall also provide, upon request, printed copies of the said lists, updated and approved by the authorized institutions.

3. Each of the Parties shall designate competent bodies authorized to cooperate with each other and provide information to the interested parties, such as higher education institutions and employers, concerning the equivalence of the qualifications within the scope of the present agreement, the education systems of both Parties and changes therein.

Article 3

Recognition of secondary education

The secondary education acquired in the institutions belonging to the education system of the Republic of Lithuania gives its holder the right to seek admission to the first cycle programmes of study in the Holy See's higher education institutions. The admission may be subject to additional requirements, if it is provided for by the legal acts of the receiving Party and/or the requirements of the higher education institution in question.

Article 4

Periods of study and their recognition

Periods of study completed in a higher education institution of one of the Parties, according to the lists presented in Article 2.2, shall be recognized when the studies are continued in a higher education institution of the other Party on the basis of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and in accordance with the legal acts of the Parties governing studies.

Article 5

Recognition of higher education qualifications

1. The recognition of qualifications obtained in higher education institutions of the Parties shall be carried out on the basis of the qualification level indicating equivalents set out in the Annex to the present Agreement, which constitutes an integral part thereof, unless

the Annex to the present Agreement, which constitutes an integral part thereof, unless substantial differences are established between higher education qualifications of the Parties.

2. The recognition of *Sacrae Theologiae Licentiatius*, *Iuris Canonici Licentiatius* and *Historiae Ecclesiasticae Licentiatius* obtained in the Holy See's higher education institutions shall be carried out with due regard to the specificity of these qualifications. The recognition decision shall equate the level of qualifications and shall also refer to the original title of the qualification obtained.

3. When accrediting higher education qualifications as part of studies, account may be taken of additional terms, specified by the legal acts of the Parties and/or the requirements of the higher education institution where studies are to be continued.

4. Qualifications conferred by higher education institutions of the Parties, other than those specified in the table of equivalent qualifications of the Annex, shall be evaluated and recognized in accordance with the provisions of the Lisbon Recognition Convention and the legal acts of the Parties.

5. With a view to ensuring mutual recognition, studies in the first cycle of Catholic theology being taught in institutions of higher education in Lithuania shall have the same period of study, scope and structure as required by the documents of the Holy See.

Article 6

Evaluation of programmes of study governed by the Congregation for Catholic Education of the Holy See

With a view to ensuring the conformity of the quality of study programmes governed by the Congregation for Catholic Education of the Holy See and taught in higher education institutions of the Republic of Lithuania according to the requirements of the Republic of Lithuania and the Holy See as well as the recognition by and transparency of the acquired education and qualifications for other states, external evaluation and accreditation of these programmes of study shall be carried out by the Holy See's Agency for the Evaluation and